

SITUATION REPORT NO. 23
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: August 4, 2000 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding and ground saturation – Due to a series of storms and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: No change from previous reports.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The next meeting for the North Dakota Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD) has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. August 15 at the Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross in Moorhead, MN.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) completed cleaning of three homes in Wells, Foster and Eddy Counties during the July 28 weekend.

Lutheran Disaster Response has 72 open cases and is continuing its work to assist flood victims statewide.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) staff received notification that FEMA-1334-DR-ND has been amended to include Oliver and Logan Counties as counties eligible for the Public Assistance Program. Additionally, McIntosh County has been declared eligible as a contiguous county for Individual Assistance Programs. To date, 26 counties and two Indian reservations have been declared eligible for individual assistance and public assistance; and 13 contiguous counties have been declared for individual assistance. All 53 North Dakota counties are eligible for hazard mitigation.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Lee Witt toured flood-damaged sites in Fargo on August 2 along with local, state and federal officials. Major topics of discussion included recovery and mitigation efforts.

Issue 2 of *Recovery*, A publication by state and federal public affairs staff, was distributed statewide starting July 31. The publication focused on tips to individuals and family regarding mitigation, flood insurance, cleanup and dealing with stress.

A tribal/state/federal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) has been scheduled for August 4 at Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. Tribal officials issued a disaster declaration on July 28 in response to public and private damages caused by excessive spring runoff and torrential rainfall.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will locate a Disaster Recovery Center in Belcourt on Wednesday, August 9 to provide information to those who suffered damages from severe weather between April 5 and July 21.

The Divisions of Disease Control and Microbiology of the N.D. Department of Health are conducting an active surveillance program for arboviral encephalitis with physicians, infection control practitioners and laboratories throughout the state, which will include counties affected by flooding. The Department of Health has been monitoring mosquito counts in flood-impacted areas. Veterinarians, through the State Veterinarian's Office, will assist in surveillance for equine encephalitis. The Department of Health has requested funding for laboratory testing from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

The N.D. Department of Health is cautioning residents about the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from using gas-powered pumps or washers indoors to clean up flooded homes.

The Public Assistance Program has received 119 requests for public assistance notices from local governments, state agencies and eligible private and non-profit organizations. One hundred and three kickoff meetings with applicants have been conducted.

As of August 3, a total of 6,206 North Dakotans registered for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) teleregistration center. Of those, 5,144 applications are under review by the Disaster Housing Program. To date, FEMA has paid more than \$6,655,284 in housing benefits and completed 5,083 home inspections.

The deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been extended until August 25. As of August 2, Job Service North Dakota had paid \$865, 611 in benefits to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who have lost income because of disaster conditions. The effective date for DUA claims is April 8, 2000.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, had received 1,814 applications and had approved \$1,073,213 in benefits by August 2.

As of August 2, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued 5,424 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$3,505,800 in loans.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a web page with cleanup and recovery information. The page is located at: <http://www.fema.gov/reg-viii/floods.htm>

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director